

Earlier this year, a group of Coloradans came together to celebrate the individual and collective challenge of leadership in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. These Coloradans were participants in an exhaustive and comprehensive national initiative called "Leadership Challenge 2001: Connecting, Communicating, Collaborating" sponsored by the Lundy Foundation, in partnership with the Gill Foundation and 40 other non-profit and corporate supporters.

Over the course of three years, 41 participants spent 56 days in intensive training sessions, addressing fundamental issues of trust, race, socioeconomic status, diversity and other challenges in building collaborative leadership within the LGBT community.

By vigorously addressing their own individual and communal issues, the participants in this innovative leadership training project also enhanced the potential of Colorado's LGBT community to address the needs and concerns of a much broader community, namely, the community we call "America."

As an enthusiast of leadership theory, I am very pleased to bring this initiative to the attention of my colleagues in this body, and to commend the project coordinates and the 32 participants who graduated from this program.

Their commitment and perseverance is admirable, and worthy of acknowledgement.

Please join me in recognizing their achievement today.

#### LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE 2001 ADMINISTRATION

Victor Dukay, Ph.D.—Project Director and President of the Lundy Foundation;

Harryl Hollingsworth, M.A.—Assistant Project Director;

Carl Larson, Ph.D.—Curriculum Development/Faculty;

Dora Lodwick, Ph.D.—Evaluator;

Allan Wallis, Ph.D.—Evaluator.

#### LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE 2001 GRADUATING PARTICIPANTS

Dave Anderson, Suzanne Banning, Joe Barrows, Jeff Basinger, Janet Corlett, Ashara Ekundayo, Robert Espinosa, Yvette Freeman, Lisha Gallegos, Peter Gross, Danielle Haraburda, Kevin Jones, Richard Jung, Matt Keefauver, Christopher Leach, Marielle Oetjen, Matt Patrick, Katherine Pease, Dean Prina, Lorenzo Ramirez, Kathy Rank, Roy Rosa, Debra Rose, Nori Rost, Becky Rudolph, Nick Sarchet, Tina Scardina, Dominick Sekich, Mike Smith, Darrell Watson, Tim Wilson, and Jennifer Woodard.

## NEED TO REBUILD OUR ECONOMY

### HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2001*

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, as brave firemen, police construction workers and other citizens continue to clear away the physical rubble of destroyed buildings, we also are surveying the damage done to our economy.

It is not too soon to begin plans to rebuild the Pentagon and the World Trade Center. It is also not too soon to begin thinking about what we can do to rebuild our economy.

World trade is an essential part in the engine of our economy, but a part that hasn't been working fully. The United States has been excluded from too many agreements in the past years because we couldn't move fast enough. It's time to make a change.

I urge my colleagues to read the following article from the September 9, 2001 issue of the Springfield News Leader by United States Trade Ambassador Robert Zoellick.

#### STATE NEEDS OPEN MARKETS TO PROSPER

It's critical for Congress to give President Bush a fast-track authority on trade pacts.

On a recent trip to the Springfield area, I visited the headquarters of five local companies engaged in foreign trade at the invitation of Congressman Roy Blunt, a legislative leader and partner. The performance of businesses such as Leggett & Platt, King Press and the Loren Cook Co. reinforced my belief that trade and open markets are critical to the economic well-being of America's manufacturers and farmers.

President Bush has been pressing to open markets to help U.S. businesses and families. Yet, this effort has been hampered because the president lacks U.S. Trade Promotion Authority that must be granted by Congress. This authority to negotiate market-opening agreements subject to an up-or-down vote by Congress expired in 1994.

Consider the following: There are 130 free-trade agreements worldwide; the United States is a party to only two. There are 30 free-trade agreements in the Western Hemisphere; the United States is a party to only one. The European Union has 27 special bilateral trade agreements, with 15 more in progress—Mexico has forged ahead with eight agreements, with 32 countries.

So what is the loss to the United States? Consider the story of Caterpillar Inc. with just one country; Chile. Caterpillar's motor graders made for export to Chile face nearly \$15,000 in tariffs. When Caterpillar manufacturers motor graders in Brazil for export to Chile, the tariff is just \$3,700. And when Caterpillar's competitors produce a similar (but not as good) product in Canada, it can be exported to Chile free of tariffs because of the Canada-Chile free-trade agreement.

But if we are going to correct problems such as that one and open markets around the world, President Bush and I need Congress to enact U.S. Trade Promotion Authority this autumn. This trade authority will help us launch a new round of global trade negotiations in November. And this new round is critical if we are going to reduce the world's trade barriers to an array of U.S. products.

Some people want to turn back the clock on trade, embracing isolationism and protectionism at a time of global interdependence. During my Springfield trip, I saw the region's companies appreciate that open markets create job opportunities in Missouri and throughout the United States.

Today, exports support 152,000 jobs in Missouri—in industries such as chemicals, agriculture and industrial machinery. More than 75,000 of Missouri's manufacturing jobs are tied to exports, as are more than 16,000 of the state's agriculture jobs. These dry numbers mean new jobs and improved prospects for companies and families throughout the Springfield region.

I toured the Paul Mueller Co., where exports—to countries ranging from Canada and Mexico to Japan and Brazil—accounted for 19 percent of its total sales last year, up approximately 42 percent since 1995. International Dehydrated Foods in Monett was Missouri's Agriculture Exporter of the Year in 1998 and has customers throughout Latin America and Asia.

Missouri's farmers, manufacturers and consumers need open markets to prosper. The Bush administration is committed to working with the Congress and our trading partners to clear the way. We have a historic opportunity to make free trade a defining feature of the 21st century. It is an opportunity and indeed necessity that America cannot afford to miss.